

(19) World Intellectual Property  
Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
1 September 2005 (01.09.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2005/080455 A1**

(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: C08F 236/12,  
C08C 19/02, C08L 9/02

TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM,  
ZW.

(21) International Application Number:  
PCT/CA2005/000252

(84) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every  
kind of regional protection available*): ARIPO (BW, GH,  
GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM,  
ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),  
European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI,  
FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO,  
SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN,  
GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

(22) International Filing Date: 22 February 2005 (22.02.2005)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:  
2,462,011 23 February 2004 (23.02.2004) CA

**Declaration under Rule 4.17:**

— *as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted  
a patent (Rule 4.17(ii)) for the following designations AE,  
AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ,  
CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE,  
EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS,  
JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA,  
MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM,  
PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SY,  
TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA,  
ZM, ZW, ARIPO patent (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ,  
NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM,  
AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT,  
BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR,  
HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK,  
TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ,  
GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG)*

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**Published:**

— *with international search report*

*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-  
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-  
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

(81) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every  
kind of national protection available*): AE, AG, AL, AM,  
AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN,  
CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI,  
GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE,  
KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD,  
MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG,  
PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM,

(54) Title: PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF LOW MOLECULAR WEIGHT NITRILE RUBBER

(57) Abstract: Nitrile rubber polymers, optionally hydrogenated, having lower molecular weight and narrower molecular weight distribution than those known in the art, are prepared by metathesis of nitrile butadiene rubber, optionally followed by hydrogenation. The process comprises the steps of a) reacting a nitrile rubber in the presence of at least one compound which is a ruthenium or osmium based indenylidene complex and optionally b) hydrogenating the resulting lower molecular weight nitrile rubber using standard techniques known in the art. The optionally hydrogenated nitrile rubber, with lower molecular weight and narrower molecular weight distribution has very good heat resistance, excellent ozone and chemical resistance and excellent oil resistance. It is used in automotive, oil, electrical, mechanical engineering and shipbuilding industries.

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